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(54) Title: AN ARRANGEMENT AND A METHOD FOR CONTENT POLICY CONTROL WITH A TRUSTED ENVIRONMENT IN A MULTIMEDIA MESSAGING SYSTEM

(57) Abstract: The present invention discloses an arrangement and a method for binding policies to MMS content to be distributed as MMS message transactions, and provides content policy enforcement on MMS message transactions by controlling, filtering and charging transaction-transfer in the mobile network. Further, the arrangement provides retention of content policy bindings when MMS messages re-enters the mobile network as new message transactions providing a trusted environment for policy and content rights handling. The present invention can be integrated in existing MMS architecture, and is compatible with all MMS content formats, being both existing and new formats.

WO 03/040898 A1

**AN ARRANGEMENT AND A METHOD FOR CONTENT POLICY CONTROL WITH
A TRUSTED ENVIRONMENT IN A MULTIMEDIA MESSAGING SYSTEM**

Field of the invention

The present invention is related to an arrangement and a
5 method in messaging environments where value added content
is protected and its distribution controlled and enforced
according to the content owner's content policies. In par-
ticular, this invention relates to content policy enforce-
ment within a trusted environment including, but not exclu-
10 sive to, the messaging environment of mobile Multimedia
Messaging Service.

Background of the invention

The recent exponential growth of value added Short-Messag-
ing-Services (SMS) was triggered by the introduction of
15 distribution and billing opportunities, provided by the
mobile operators, to 3rd party value added service (VAS)
and content providers. Some examples of VAS SMS are jokes
(text format), stock quotes (text format), simple ringing
tones (binary format) and black and white logos (binary
20 format).

The next generation of messaging services, namely the
mobile Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS) [1] standardized
by the WAP forum and 3GPP, will support transfer and deliv-
ery of value added multimedia content (e.g. sounds, video
25 and images) to mobile terminals. To owners of such content,
this represents a new channel where their content can be
sold.

The future of VAS MMS services has an even greater growth
potential compared to SMS services due to the advanced con-
30 tent capabilities of the MMS technology. Sophisticated mul-
timedia content can be provided with VAS MMS services. Some
examples of envisaged value added MMS and content are

"mobile greeting card portal" (such as sending pictures/animations, with or without sound from a portal to a mobile terminal), "famous cartoon messages" (such as animations, with or without colours/audio), "visual/audio quiz messages" (such as picture/audio messaging games), "talking head message" (such as rendering a personal text with a predefined animation). VAS MMS will be offered to the end users by operators and by independent 3rd party service and content providers (e.g. media houses, portals, broadcasting corporations) that utilise the wireless MMS infrastructure of the operators.

Multimedia content has an inherently greater value to the content owners than plain text content (cf. SMS). When making such value added content available to end-users, it is therefore important to the content owners that the content is protected, and its distribution rules controlled and enforced according to the content owner's content policies, so that their intellectual property and revenue streams are secured. Examples of such content policies are: "content is to be charged the end-user on purchase and download, forwarding to other users is not allowed", "the sender is to be charged an extra fee if content is forwarded to another user", "content is not to be distributed (download or forwarded) to end-users under the age of 18", "content can be distributed to mobile terminals with MS-ISDN addressing, content shall not be distributed (downloaded or forwarded) to e-mail addresses", "content can only be distributed (downloaded or forwarded) to female end-users", "content is not to be edited by end-user", and so on.

The mobile operator has to provide a total solution to support these requirements so that content owners can securely make their content available for value added MMS with defined policies and thereby protect their intellectual property and their revenue streams.

Policy detection and enforcement of value added content of today are essentially adapted to Internet models.

One example of access control is the platform for Internet Content Selection (PICS) [2] and Digital Signature (DSiG) [3], which is a standard solution for defining and controlling meta-data for web content. This solution defines a language and a set of processing rules for controlling access to content. This allows, e.g., parents to control what content their kids can access.

Policy binding to content is handled by the content provider, including meta-data in web files. Detection of the policy is handled by functionality within the web client by screening web files downloaded for meta-data. PICS and DSiG detects the rating policy statements (e.g., suitable for persons under the age of 18) and gives presentation-access to the content according to allowed policies set within the web-client (e.g., only to present content that is suitable for users under the age of 18).

Two strategies are established for usage control of Internet content. These are:

Digital watermark [4] that is a process where a pattern is added to the content itself to represent the policy. This pattern shall ideally be invisible for the end-user. Special web-clients or applications filter and recognise this pattern and they give usage rights to the end-user according to the policy detected.

The clearinghouse [5] model is a model where the content is packaged into an encoded container. When reading the content with a client that can interpret the container, the container will authorize usage rights according to the policy handling of a remote clearinghouse.

The problems with the above mentioned solutions of prior art are that they do not handle policies with respect to the delivery-transaction of content. They only solve:

- 5 a) Self-imposed access-control to content, i.e. what can be presented or rendered after a download of content. The end-user can determine which policies should be enforced by configuring the presentation tool (i.e., the web client).
- 10 b) Usage-control to content. How the content can be used after the content has been downloaded/received and when the content is attempted to be used.

They do not solve policies enforcement with respect to who is allowed to send or forward value added content, who is
15 allowed to receive value added content, and which value added content is allowed being sent or received. These are problems that have to be solved in a mobile messaging environment, where value added content will have policies associated with message delivery transactions.

20 Consequently, there is a need for a solution for policy detection and enforcement of value added content in a mobile multimedia-messaging environment.

Summary of the invention

The main object of the present invention is to provide an
25 arrangement and a method that meets the requirements for content policy enforcement in the MMS architecture. The features defined in the claims enclosed characterize this arrangement.

The present invention discloses an arrangement and a method
30 for binding policies to MMS content to be distributed as MMS message transactions and gives content policy enforce-

ment on MMS message transactions by controlling the transaction-transfer in the mobile network. Further, the arrangement provides retention of content policy bindings when MMS messages re-enters the mobile network as new message transactions providing a trusted environment for
5 policy and content rights handling.

The present invention presents an arrangement and a method consisting of four main components in an arrangement giving trusted environment characteristics:

- 10 - Policy Binding Method (PBM), that is used to bind policies to MMS content
- Policy Detection Filter (PDF), that detects MMS content policies in transaction-transfer
- Policy Agency (PA), that parse policies
- 15 - Trusted Client Method (TCM), that retains policy bindings on the client

The **PBM** is used to add meta-data to the MMS message and message elements to give policy associations with the content when the MMS is distributed from a service provider to
20 an end-user, via the mobile operator's infrastructure. PBM allows for the PDF to detect policies on the MMS in transfer within the mobile infrastructure.

The **PDF** monitors the MMS in transfer within the mobile infrastructure. It resides within, or is closely coupled
25 with, the MMS-C. PDF filters on the MMS and detects any policy meta-data, according to the PBM encoding, of messages passing through. MMS with policies detected are stalled in the delivery-transaction and held until the PA has processed the policies. The PDF requests the PA to
30 process the policies.

The **PA** enables or disables the message to be passed through to the end-user by informing the PDF of the action to be taken according to the PA result of the parsed policy. The

PA receives the content policy references from the PDF and one or more of the following as input to the parsing: end-user data from the PDF, message content element references or content from the PDF, and end-user client profiles from
5 the PDF.

The TCM ensures that the meta-data of messages and message elements received on the mobile terminal will be retained if the message or message elements are sent back into the wireless network by the mobile terminal.

10 Brief description of the drawings

In order to make the invention more readily understandable, the discussion that follows will refer to the accompanying drawings.

Figure 1 illustrates the MMS architecture and the compo-
15 nents involved in message transfer between mobile handsets (peer-peer and forwarding) and from a network server to a mobile handset (publishing).

Figure 2 illustrates the components involved according to the present invention and how they interact. The figure
20 also illustrates how these components are placed in the MMS architecture.

Detailed description of preferred embodiments

In the following, a preferred embodiment of the present invention will be described in an MMS environment, referring
25 to the above-mentioned figures. However, this does not represent any limitations to the invention. The present invention may be utilized in other similar applications, environments and contexts with other variations and substitutions without departing from the scope of the invention as
30 defined by the attached independent claims.

The MMS message delivery process for value added content is depicted in Figure 1. As illustrated, the message transfer can either be initiated from the network (i.e. published from a service provider) or it can be initiated from a peer terminal (user-agent).

For value added content that is to be subject to policy control, the first delivery will always be initiated from the network (published). The content may then be distributed (forwarded) in a peer-peer fashion. The invention builds on this nature for the distribution of value added content.

In order to describe the process of policy enforcement, a typical usage scenario will now be described. The typical scenario consists of three steps, being the policy definition, the publishing process and the forwarding control process.

The policy definition process consists of the following:

- The content owner makes the value added content available (store in database)
- The content owner defines the content policy and binds it to the content (store in database)

The publishing process consists of the following:

- The mobile user requests value added content
- The content owner publishes the content onto the mobile infrastructure with its policies
- The MMS is in *transfer*, and:
- For each of the requested content-elements the content policy is detected
- The policies are enforced
- The value added content is sent to and retrieved by the mobile users, if allowed according to policy

The forwarding control process consists of the following:

- The mobile user forwards some value added content to another peer user
- The MMS is in *transfer*, and:
- 5 - The message is relayed through the mobile infrastructure
- The policies are detected and enforced
- The value added content is sent to and retrieved by the user to whom the content was being forwarded to,
- 10 if allowed according to policy

Examples of content and content elements that may comprise value added content/service data are audio files, pictures, animations, videos, and texts, and any combination of these [6,7,8,9,10].

- 15 The present invention provides functions that are used by the publishing process, when MMSs are in transfer, when published and when forwarded.

The Publishing Process

- 20 The publishing process applies to content being delivered from a network server to a client terminal and its user-agent. The traffic flow is depicted in Figure 1 and labelled with (A).

Policy Binding

- 25 The present invention introduces policy binding to the content when the content is being published. The policy-binding component of the invention is depicted in Figure 2 and referred to as PBM.

- 30 The Policy Binding Method (PBM) is used to bind the policies to the content when the content is published. The PBM defines the formatting rules to be used.

The formatting rules may for instance be implemented using XML-header [11] fields such as those found in SMIL[12] or WML[13], so that content policy identifiers can be included as meta-data and thereby associated with the message.

- 5 The policy identifier may be represented in different ways:
- a) As a URL[14] reference to a policy database containing policies.
 - b) As a URL reference to wrapper files containing both the reference to the content and to the policy.
10
 - c) As a policy-flag or tag in combination with a shadow policy directory. In this case, all content URLs have a shadow policy URL, where there is a fixed relation between the two URLs (e.g.
15 /image/cool.gif -> /image/cool_gif.policy).

After the policy binding, the message is published (e.g., via the MMS-C MM7 interface) and introduced into the mobile operator's infrastructure. The message is then in transfer within the mobile infrastructure.

20 Transfer Control

All MMS messages pass through the MMS-C according to the standardised MMS architecture. This also applies for MMSs that are published and that are forwarded.

The present invention introduces message transfer control
25 to enforce policies associated with message transactions. These functions of the invention are depicted in Figure 2 and are referred to as PDF and PA.

The Policy Detection Filter (PDF) carries out control of content and resides within or is closely coupled to the
30 MMS-C. The PDF checks if MMS content in transfer (both for MMSs published and MMSs in the forwarding process) has a

defined policy and makes sure that the policy is enforced and activated by requesting the PA to do so. The PDF carries out the detection by screening for policy meta-data, formatted according to the PBM implementation. When the PDF identifies a content element with a policy, it will request the Policy Agency (PA) to process the policy. In doing so, the PDF puts the message transaction on hold, and provides a reference to the policy and one or more of the following as input to the parsing: end-user data from the PDF, message content element references or content from the PDF, and end-user client profiles from the PDF.

The PA may use different techniques to identify the policy of a content element. The technique used in this embodiment is determined by, and corresponds to, the policy representation implementation of the policy identifiers used by the PBM.

The PA will then process this policy and return an ok status code to the PDF if the content is allowed in this context. Content that is not allowed in the given context will be removed or replaced with a screening message by the PDF before a message is delivered (e.g., "Content requested not allowed" or "Content forwarded not allowed").

When the Policy Agency (PA) is invoked to enforce a policy, it will perform the following steps (or any combinations thereof) to enforce the policy:

- a) Check if the receiver is allowed to receive the content element from the sender.

The check is performed by retrieving user information (e.g., address, age, prepaid account level), either from an independent database containing such information, or from the database of the mobile operator, and checking the user information with the content policy (e.g., age group allowed, price policy, number series allowed).

- 5 b) Check if the receiver-client is allowed to retrieve the content element. The check is performed by retrieving client information when the receiver-client initiates contact with the MMS-C, and checking the client information with the content policy.
- 10 c) Check if the sender is allowed to send the content element. The check is performed by retrieving user information (as in a)), and checking this with the content policy.
- d) Generate charging information to charge the sender or receiver for use of the content element.

15 When a client terminal initiates contact with the MMS-C to retrieve an MMS, the PDF can retrieve information about the client (e.g., via a User Agent Profile, UAPProf [13]), put the message transaction on hold, and pass the client information to the PA for policy handling. The PA can then return an ok status code to the PDF if the client is trusted and allowed in this context. For instance, if the particular client does not have the TCM implemented, the PA can deny access to the content, according to defined policy. Content that is not allowed in this context will be removed or replaced with a screening message (e.g., "Content requested not allowed on this terminal") by the PDF before the message is delivered.

25

Trusted Client Method

The invention introduces a function on the terminal that retains MMSs with policy bindings. The function is depicted in Figure 2 and referred to as TCM.

30 The Trusted Client Method (TCM) is integrated as a function within the terminal (e.g., as an integrated part of the terminal's MMS client or the terminal's WAP [13] browser).

It is used to ensure that terminals can be trusted to retain MMS policy bindings originated in the publishing process by the PBM implementation and contained within MMSs received/retrieved on the terminal.

- 5 By retaining the MMS policy bindings, the MMS policies can be detected and enforced again if the MMS is sent back into the mobile messaging infrastructure. The PDF, as previously described, is able to retrieve the information about a terminal client, whether or not TCM is implemented, and may
10 pass this on to the PA for policy enforcement in a trusted environment. The components and the arrangement of invention provide for a trusted environment for policy handling.

The TCM may be implemented by the following procedure:

- 15 1. MMS that is retrieved by the terminal is screened for policies according to the encoding of the PBM.
2. Detected policies together with the message element file references are stored in a list within the terminal's non-volatile memory.
- 20 3. When the terminal is to send a new MMS, the content element file references of the MMS are compared with the file references in the list.
4. If any match in the list is found, the associated policies are included in the MMS encoding according to the PBM implementation before the MMS is sent into the
25 mobile messaging infrastructure.

The present invention provides a solution for policy enforcement of value added content in a mobile multimedia-messaging environment, extending the business potential for MMS. It handles enforcement of the message transaction-delivery, which is paramount to a mobile messaging environment.
30

The invention provides a solution that is secure, ensuring not only that published content is enforced, but also that

value added content that re-enters the mobile network in a peer-to-peer fashion can be securely enforced by retaining the policy bindings within the mobile client. This brings a trusted environment for policy handling and enforcement to

5 MMS.

Further, the present invention provides a solution that easily can be integrated with existing mobile technology (i.e., terminals and MMS-clients, MMS-C infrastructure), thus enhancing and optimising the existing technologies

10 with the important functionality for content policy handling.

The invention provides an efficient solution for policy binding, policy detection, and policy enforcement, not requiring policies to be included within content in a proprietary and processing demanding way.

15

Also, the invention provides a solution that is compatible with all MMS content formats, comprising both existing and new formats.

The invention provides a solution that gives flexible policy enforcement functions by decoupling the policy enforcement functions from policy detection functions.

20

Abbreviations and references

- 5 [1] MMS 3GPP TS 23.140 v4.2.0 (2001-03), 3rd Generation
Partnership Project; Technical Specification Group
Terminals; Multimedia Messaging Service (MMS);
Functional description; Stage 2 (Release 4)
- [2] PICS Rating Services and Rating Systems (and Their
Machine Readable Descriptions), REC-PICS-services-
961031, version 1.1, World Wide Web Consortium
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REC-DSig-label-19980527, World Wide Web Consortium
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Internetcontent.net, 2/20/2001
- [6] GIF, Graphics Interchange Format (Version 89a),
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- 20 [7] JPEG, ITU-T Rec. T.81/ISO/IEC 10918-1: 1992,
„Information Technology - Digital Compression and
Coding of Continuous-Tone Still Images -
Requirements and Guidelines"
- [8] MP3 MPEG1-Audio ISO/IEC 11172-3, MPEG2-Audio
25 ISO/IEC 11172-3
- [9] MPEG4, ISO/IEC 14496-1(1999): Information
Technology - Generic Coding of Audio-Visual Objects
AND 3GPP TR 26.911: "Codec(s) for Circuite Switched

Multimedia Telephony Service; Terminal
Implementor's Guide"

[10] AMR 3GPP TS 26.090: "AMR Speech Codec Speech
Transcoding Functions"

5 [11] XML Extensible Markup Language (XML) 1.0 (Second
Edition), World Wide Web Consortium (W3C),
Recommendation 6 October 2000

[12] Synchronized Multimedia Integration Language (SMIL)
1.0 Specification, World Wide Web Consortium (W3C),
10 Recommendation 15-June-1998

[13] Wireless Application Protocol, Wireless Markup
Language Specification Version 1.1, WAP WML Version
16-Jun-1999, Wireless Application Protocol Forum

[14] URL/URI, Uniform Resource Identifiers (URI):
15 Generic Syntax, Internet Engineering Task Force
(IETF), Request For Comment (RFC) 2396, August 1998

P a t e n t c l a i m s

1. An arrangement for execution and control of policies
for Multimedia Message Service (MMS) messages or elements
5 of such (from now on referred to as MMS messages) being
transferred in a communication network to and/or from
terminals connected thereto,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n

10 a first means adapted to associate a policy with one
or more of said MMS messages,

 a second means adapted to detect whether MMS messages
in transfer in said communication network are
associated with policies, and to transmit a request
for executing a policy to the third means when
15 detecting that that policy is associated with an MMS
message,

 a third means adapted to execute a policy on an MMS
message to which the policy is detected as being
associated,

20 a fourth means adapted to ensure that an MMS message
associated with a policy is retained associated with
that policy when the MMS message is received, stored
and/or forwarded in/from one of the terminals,

25 whereby said means are connected to and/or integrated
in an MMS architecture connected to said communication
network.

2. Arrangement according to claim 1,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that said first means
associates the policy to one or more of said MMS messages
30 by inserting a reference to the policy in a heading of a
file/files representing said one or more MMS messages.

3. Arrangement according to claim 2,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the header is an XML
header and the reference is a URL.

4. Arrangement according to claim 2 or 3,
5 c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the second means
detects whether MMS messages in transfer in said
communication network are associated with policies by
monitoring all MMS messages arriving at the MMS-C of the
MMS architecture.

10 5. Arrangement according to claim 4,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the second means is
adapted to place the MMS message on hold and that said
request contains said reference to the policy, user and
terminal data of the MMS message's intended receiver and a
15 content or a content reference of the MMS message.

6. Arrangement according to any of the preceding claims,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the fourth means is
implemented in one or more of the terminals.

7. Arrangement according to one of the claims 2-6,
20 c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the third means
executes the policy by:

- a) checking if the MMS message's intended
receiver is allowed to receive the MMS
message,
- 25 b) checking if a terminal of the intended
receiver comprises said fourth means,
- c) checking if the MMS message's sender is
allowed to send the MMS message,
- 30 d) generating charging information to charge the
sender or intended receiver for the MMS
message, and

according to step a) - c) ;

- e) instructing said second means whether it should forward the MMS message to the intended receiver or not.

5 8. Arrangement according to one of the preceding claims,
c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n that the fourth means
ensures that the MMS message associated with the policy is
retained associated with that policy by:

- 10 f) monitoring receiving MMS messages for
 associated policies in a terminal in which
 said fourth means is implemented,
- g) storing detected policies together with
 references to associated MMS messages in a
 reference list in said terminal,
- 15 h) upon sending the MMS messages from the
 terminal, checking the reference list if the
 MMS messages have references to policies, and
- i) associating policies to MMS messages
 according to the reference list.

20 9. A method in an MMS architecture for execution and
control of policies for MMS messages or elements of such
(from now on referred to as MMS messages) being transferred
in a communication network to and/or from terminals
connected thereto,
25 c h a r a c t e r i z e d i n

- a) associating a policy to one or more of said
 MMS messages,
- b) detecting whether MMS messages in transfer in
30 said communication network are associated
 with policies and transmitting a request for

executing a policy when detecting that that policy is associated with an MMS message,

c) executing a policy on an MMS message to which the policy is detected as being associated, and

5

d) ensuring that an MMS message associated with a policy is retained associated with that policy when the MMS message is received, stored and/or forwarded in/from one of the terminals.

10

1/1

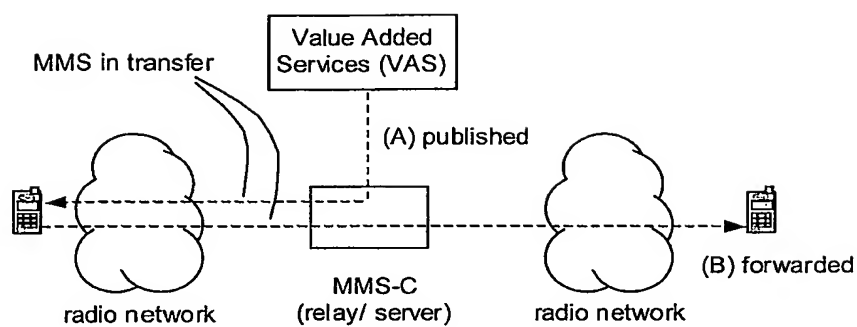


Figure 1: MMS Transfer Scenarios

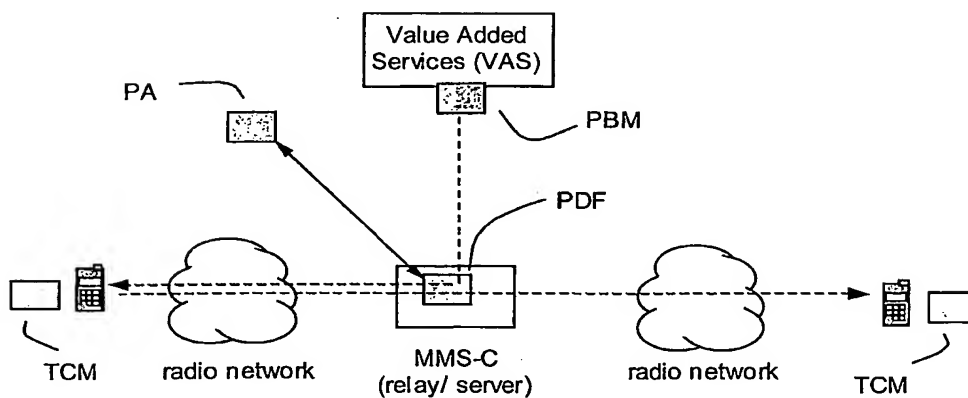


Figure 2: Components of invention and their interaction in the MMS architecture

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/NO 02/00413

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC7: G06F 1/00, H04L 29/00, H04Q 7/22

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC7: G06F, H04L, H04Q

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

SE,DK,FI,NO classes as above

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EPO-INTERNAL, WPI DATA

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
P,X	EP 1217591 A1 (NOKIA CORP), 26 June 2002 (26.06.02), paragraphs 6-18 --	1-9
Y	US 6286052 B1 (MCCLOGHRIE, K. ET AL), 4 Sept 2001 (04.09.01), claim 15 --	1-6,9
Y	WO 0028398 A1 (KONINKLIJKE PHILIPS ELECTRONICS N.V.), 18 May 2000 (18.05.00), abstract --	1-6,9
A	WO 0176181 A2 (TUMBLEWEED COMMUNICATIONS CORP), 11 October 2001 (11.10.01), summary of the invention --	1-9

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.☒ See patent family annex.

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"&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

7 February 2003

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